



Memorandum

TO: MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

FROM: Mayor Chuck Reed
Councilmember Sam Liccardo

SUBJECT: SEE BELOW

DATE: December 12, 2014

APPROVED:

Chuck Reed
Sam Liccardo

SUBJECT: INTERIM APPOINTMENT TO VACANT DISTRICT 4 SEAT

RECOMMENDATION:

Appoint Margie Matthews as an Interim Appointment to serve as the District 4 councilmember, effective January 13, 2015 and concluding with the seating of an elected councilmember in August, 2015.

BACKGROUND:

The City Council has set a special election to replace former Councilmember Kansen Chu to be held on April 7, 2015, with a runoff, if required, on June 23, 2015. Charter Section 410 (c) authorizes the City Council to make an Interim Appointment to the City Council:

“(c) INTERIM APPOINTMENT. If a vacant office is to be filled by election, the Council may make an interim appointment to fill the office until a candidate has been duly elected and the results of the election have been officially certified. A person who is appointed during the interim period shall meet the eligibility requirements to hold office under Section 404 of this Charter.”

- Section 410 (c), Filling of Vacancies

DISCUSSION:

Given the likelihood of a crowded election field and a runoff election, nine months may transpire between the departure of Assembly member Kansen Chu for Sacramento and the seating of his elected successor in District 4. In the meantime, the people of District 4 deserve representation during council votes, particularly to advocate for the District’s interest in budget discussions in May, and regarding controversial development issues common to the District.

Ms. Matthews served two terms (1993-2000) on the San José City Council representing Council District 4. She then worked for two years for the City of Los Angeles as Executive Officer of the Department of Recreation and Parks. She was the Director of the Santa Clara County Office Affordable Housing from 2003 through 2011. Before her election to the San José City Council, Ms.

Matthews was a policy advisor to Susan Hammer in the District 3 Council office and later in Mayor Hammer's administration.

Ms. Matthews has a bachelor's degree in Political Science and a master's degree in History. She has been an adult education and college teacher and has five children and 8 grandchildren. She has lived in Berryessa for more than 40 years and has volunteered for a number of civic and community organizations, including History San Jose and the San Jose Conservation Corps.

She is quite familiar with issues relative to District 4, and is willing to serve on an interim basis. Ms. Matthews has offered to serve as a volunteer **with no pay** (to ensure compliance with CalPERS requirements for state retirees) **and she will not run for the vacant District 4 seat**. For that reason, we seek to appoint Margie Matthews and bring this issue for the Council's deliberation on December 16.